

Thomas Jefferson to Washington, D. C. Commissioners, August 28, 1791, from Thomas Jefferson and the National Capital. Edited by Saul K. Padover.

Jefferson to Commissioners TO THOMAS JOHNSON, DAVID STUART, & DANIEL CARROLL ESQRS.

Philadelphia August 28. 1791.

Gentlemen

Your joint letter of the 2. instant to the President, as also Mr. Carroll's separate letters of the 5. and 15. have been duly received. Major L'Enfant also having arrived here and laid his plan of the federal city before the President, he was pleased to desire a conference of certain persons, in his presence, on these several subjects. It is the opinion of the President, in consequence thereof, that an immediate meeting of the Commissioners at Georgetown is requisite, that certain measures may be decided on and put into a course of preparation for a commencement of sale on the 17. of October as advertised. As Mr. Madison and myself, who were present at the conferences, propose to pass through Georgetown on our way to Virginia, the President supposes that our attendance at the meeting of the Commissioners might be of service to them, as we could communicate to them the sentiments developed at the conferences here and approved by the President, under whatever point of view they may have occasion to know them. The circumstances of time and distance oblige me to take the liberty of proposing the day of meeting and to say that we will be in Georgetown on the evening of the 7. or morning of the 8. of the next month, in time to attend any meeting of the Commissioners on that day, and in hopes they may be able in the course of it to make all the use of us they make think proper, so that we may pursue our journey the next day. To that meeting there

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fore the answers to the several letters before mentioned are referred.

The letter is addressed externally to Mr. Carroll only with a requisition to the post master at Georgetown to send it to him by express, under the hope that he will by expresses to the other Gentlemen take timely measures for the proposed meeting on the 8. I have the honor to be with sentiments of the highest respect and esteem Gentlemen &c.

Th: Jefferson

[Ms., p. 281, *American letters*, Vol. IV, 1788–92, State Department Archives in the National Archives; p. 181, u.s. v. SMITH.]